

A  
TREATISE

ON THE

MEDICAL POWERS

OF THE

NITRO MURIATIC ACID BATH

IN

Various Diseases,

WITH

CASES,

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BY WALTER DUNLOP,  
SURGEON.

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M. & H. RICHARDSON, PRINTERS, MANCHESTER.

ON THE  
NITRO MURIATIC ACID BATH,  
AS A  
CURE FOR WORMS  
AND  
Other Disorders.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

HAVING witnessed the efficacy of the internal use of Nitric Acid in the Clinical Wards of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, in 1796, I was led to the early administration of that Medicine in my own practice, with an effect fully equal to my expectation; especially in anomalous Syphilitic Cases, in the sequelæ of that often intractable Disease, and in that disordered and broken state of Health, which is the consequence of Intemperance.

Early in 1817, Mr. Charles Bell's Surgical Observations made me acquainted with Dr. Scott's method of using the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath;

but I was in my own practice in many instances disappointed in the result which that Gentleman had led me to anticipate, and from the want of that scientific and practical knowledge of the nature and properties of the Bath, which alone can induce a Practitioner to persevere in the use of any medicine, however recommended in general terms, or in specific cases, I had in a great measure abandoned its use. Nor was this disappointment and consequent discredit peculiar to myself, for all the Medical Gentlemen with whom I conversed on the subject considered the Bath as of doubtful efficacy; some indeed had not paid attention to the subject from the want of sufficient evidence of its utility; others had been disappointed, and losing all confidence in the remedy, abandoned its use. There was, however, one exception to this general fact.

Having met my friend Dr. Jarrold of Manchester in consultation, whose excellent Medical skill I have repeatedly witnessed, the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath became the subject of conversation. He had paid attention to it, and pointed out the cause of the errors into which Medical Men in general had fallen, and with great frankness gave me the result of his practice; the principles of which, I have pursued, and which form the basis of the present Pamphlet.

It was an easy conjecture that when the valuable treatise of Dr. Hamilton on the use of purgative Medicines, had attracted the attention and influenced the conduct of almost every Medical Practitioner in the kingdom, that a further enlargement of our Pathological and Practical knowledge would be the consequence, and every fact connected with this object is worthy of notice. Under this impression, I feel no difficulty in first inviting the attention of Medical Practitioners to the use of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, in a class of Diseases of the abdominal viscera, over which the direct application of Purgative Medicines either has no influence, or is insufficient for the cure; and which Diseases appear to relate, not to a loaded state of the intestines, but to a deranged, or debilitated action of the secretory vessels of the Viscus, which is the seat of the disease: the nature of which diseased action it may be premature to attempt to explain, as the subject demands more facts and more observations than I am in the possession of. My present business is thus necessarily limited to a statement of cases and remarks.



## PART I

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### *On fixed Pains in the region of the Cæcum coli.*

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MR. T. aged 36.

Had for several weeks been affected with pain in the right side, on the region of the Os Illium, not increased on pressure, but so intense as to disturb his sleep. Being subsequently attacked with inflammation on the chest, he was repeatedly bled and blistered, and purgatives were occasionally administered, the inflammation was thus subdued, but the pain of the side still continued. The Nitro Muriatric Acid Bath was used on the 1st. of January 1817, in the proportions and strength as recommended by Dr. Scott.

2d. Slept better.

4th. Pain abated and sleep improved.

8th. Pain continues to abate.

12th. Pain gone. The bath was continued a fortnight longer, and a laxative was occasionally given.

MRS. W. *aged 40.*

For six years had been affected with pain in the region of the Cæcum coli so intense in the winter as to confine her to the house. Had been under the care of several Physicians of eminence, at whose advice she had visited various watering places, but without any sensible relief.

December 20, 1819 I first saw her, had not then been in bed of a month. Pain constant and intense. Countenance emaciated anxious and pale. Pulse 110. Bowels rather constipated. Took a purgative in the morning, and an op<sup>er</sup>ate at bed time.

22d. Pain unabated.

23d. Used the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath for a quarter of an hour and took the following pill:

R. Extr<sup>m</sup>. Aloes.

Hydrarg. Submur. a. a. gr. x ft. Pil. x et Capeat 1 om. hora somni.

24th. Felt stronger, but the pain unabated.

26th. Pain at intervals not so intense.

28th. Improving slowly.

30th. Still something better.

1820. Jan. 2d. The appearance of the countenance less anxious.

4th. Slept two hours on a sofa.

8th. Pain less.

14th. Was able to sleep in bed.

20th. Pain only returns occasionally.

24th. Very little pain. The Bath and the laxative Pill were continued a fortnight longer, when she felt herself well, and has continued so to the present time, a distance of nine months.



## PART II

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### *The effects of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath in Worms.*

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BESIDES the relief which is obtained by the use of the Bath, in fixed and chronic pains about the region of <sup>the</sup> Cæcum coli, it is highly valuable in the expulsion of worms from the intestinal canal, of which the following cases are evidence.

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MISS. A. *aged 26.*

Had for several years suffered much distress from Ascarides, accompanied with some pain in the Head. Had been frequently under Medical treatment with temporary benefit only. June 14th. 1818. Used the Nitro-Muriatic Acid Bath and continued its use twenty minutes every evening for three weeks, when all her complaints had left her, and six months after she remained well.

MR. S. T. *aged 29.* ;

On the 1st. of June, 1820, applied to me for the cure of Worms, the most distressing symptoms of which, were headach, faintness at stomach, costiveness, and loss of appetite; he could take nothing to breakfast but tea, which he had a difficulty in retaining. He used the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, for a quarter of an hour every morning, which in a few days, occasioned the discharge of several large portions of the Tape Worm. His bowels were kept open, and the appetite improved by the Bath; it also acted so powerfully by perspiration, that I was under the necessity of prohibiting its use, before the end of a fortnight. He has had no return of the complaint.

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EDWIN C. A Boy, *aged 4.*

Has been troubled with Worms at times for more than two years. Used the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath on the 5th of September, 1819, which his mother prepared according to directions, and ascertained the heat by inserting her arms: she was soon after seized with Diarrhœa; next night the Bath produced the same effect, it was therefore condemned and the use discontinued; however,

Master Edwin discharged a large Worm of the *Lumbricé* kind.

Many other cases might be cited to prove the powers of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath in expelling and preventing the generation of Worms in the intestinal canal, but the above are sufficient to establish the fact.

It is worthy of remark, that the most poisonous substances to these animals out of the body are the acids, and therefore their use in any form is entitled to notice. The most common, but least destructive of the Anthelmentics, are Jalap, Bears-foot, and Gamboge; Arsenic scarcely injures these animals, while Opium, Pink Root, and Tobacco are not so destructive to them, as Honey, Sugar, or Manna; but these act not so much as poisons, as by obstructing respiration, so that their internal use can be of little avail, as these articles are digested before they can reach the seat of those animals, and the acids are probably beneficial by restoring the healthy actions of the intestines.

It is still a disputed point amongst Naturalists and Physiologists, how Worms are generated in the animal body, some asserting their extrinsic origin, whilst others maintain their equivocal generation.

Animals that live upon the skin may pass from one individual to another, and thus their origin never seems obscure ; But when the intestines, liver, head, and other internal parts of the body become the seat of **Worms**, it is a question of some interest ; How came they there ? certainly no animals similar to those found in the body, exist out of it. They do not propagate their young by eggs, and cannot by any possibility be supposed to pass from one individual to another ; to ascribe their existence to spontaneous generation, is to oppose the opinions of Naturalists : but the question still occurs, how do they originate ? are they not to animals, what moss is to trees, or vegetable mould to other substances ? Bread in the autumn if kept a few days is not only covered with vegetable mould on the outside, but the inside is not free from it. It is in vain to attempt to account for the circumstance, by supposing that the seed of the plant had been conveyed to the bread, this could no more happen, than that the seeds of clover should ascend to the top of a hill by a blast of wind ; and yet we know, when peat moss has been drained and covered with lime or even gravel, it is invariably soon after covered by a crop of clover ; it therefore seems somewhat probable, that animals and vegetables in a state of disease and decay, give birth to certain productions endowed with life. In a medical point



of view it is indisputable, that certain states of the body are friendly to the production and existence of worms, and in effecting a cure, it is not sufficient to expel the animals only ; but so to correct the state of the body as to prevent their return. Common medicines only expel them : but the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath by giving a new action to the secretory vessels of the Intestines, removes the disease that gives birth to those animals. A similar diseased action of the skin gives origin to those animals that are peculiar to it ; but how far the Acids would cure or prevent them from generating, I have made no experiments ; thus far however it is certain, that nothing removes scurf and other impurities of the skin so soon as acidulated water.

## PART III

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*The Aperient powers of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, are exemplified in the following case.*

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MRS. R. aged 26.

HAS been subject to frequent bilious attacks for many years, attended with headach, severe sickness and vomiting : bowels always constipated during those attacks. Is now in her second pregnancy, and in consequence of her situation her sufferings have become more frequent, critical, and distressing ; has never obtained much relief from medicines on account of a peculiar idiosyncrasy of constitution, which prevented opiates from agreeing with the stomach : and no cathartic could be contrived that would operate without griping. I therefore resolved upon the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, and on the 9th. of June 1819, it was first used for a quarter of an hour and repeated every evening during the attacks ; by which means the



bowels were kept open, and the other symptoms mitigated.

The Family were surprized at the effects of the remedy, rendering so much relief by means so apparently simple, and affording a boon, which medicine had denied.

The stimulus of the Nitro Mariatic Acid Bath seems to pervade the whole system, sometimes communicating a particular saltish taste to the mouth, and sometimes soothing the Nerves like an anodyne; but when it acts favourably, it exerts its influence either singly or combined upon the stomach, bowels, liver, kidneys and skin.

## PART IV

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### *On Indigestion.*

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THE efficacy of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath in removing debilitated action in the stomach, and a depraved secretion of bile in the Liver, will appear from the following case.

A Gentleman in the neighbourhood *aged* 40. and who had been subject to Dyspepsia for several years, from taking cold and some irregularities when on a journey in the latter end of March 1819, his stomach complaints became much worse, with total loss of appetite, accompanied with frequent efforts to vomit. Complained of no pain or thirst. Pulse natural. Bowels rather costive but motions of a green, buff or black colour: these complaints continued increasing till the 28th of May, when he became so debilitated, that the slightest motion of the body renewed the efforts to vomit. Serious apprehensions were now entertained as to his safety.

Bitters, purgatives, the blue pill, and a variety of remedies had been used with little or no advantage.

He was ordered to use the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath for a quarter of an hour every evening; which in the first place opened the bowels freely, and afterwards acted as a diuretic, gradually restoring the appetite, and changing the alvine evacuations to a healthy colour. The Bath was persevered in for about three weeks, omitting it now and then according to the open state of the bowels. Has since that period enjoyed better health than he had done for several years preceding.

I have found the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath singularly speedy and efficacious in cases of Dyspepsia, when symptomatic of irregular or defective secretion of bile in the liver, or depending upon a debilitated action in the stomach, as in the following case.

MRS. W. *aged 53.*

Has been subject to Dyspepsia for several years past, and has suffered severely from frequent bilious attacks: countenance sallow and body much emaciated: has taken the advice of some eminent Practitioners with little or no benefit. On the 9th of July 1820, I found her complaining of pains and faintness at the stomach, with frequent

inclination to vomit, had had no appetite for a length of time, no thirst, but sleep disturbed, bowels regular ; was ordered the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath for a quarter of an hour every evening.

11th. Faintness at stomach gone and pain easier.

13th. Pain removed and appetite returning.

15th. Begins to relish some light food, sleep restored.

18th. Improving in every respect.

20th. Continued the Bath a fortnight longer, every other night, when she felt herself stronger, and enjoyed a much better appetite than she had done for several years.

MISS. A. *aged* 19.

Has been in a declining state of health for the last seven months. On the 15th of July, 1820, was ordered the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, for a quarter of an hour every evening, on account of a periodical attack of pain in the bowels which returned every twenty-four hours. The Bath did not affect the pain, but restored her appetite for animal food, which had been lost for a length of time ; by persevering in the Bath her digestion continued good, and she recruited so far as to be able to be wheeled out in a chair, for the benefit



of the fresh air. August 28th. her complaint being considered of an incurable nature, she now only used the Bath every second or third night, but always found her appetite increased the day after, which shews the power of the Acid Bath in supporting the action of the stomach.

The Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath will be found a powerful deobstruent in cases of Amenorrhœa, whether depending upon a depraved state of the stomach, a diminished action of the Chylopoetic viscera, or upon a torpor of the uterine system.

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BETTY C. *aged 30.*

Had an attack of Pleurisy in October, 1819, which was overcome by the usual modes of treatment, but she continued in a weakly state till the first of January, 1820, when she was again seized with inflammation on her chest, which required the strictest depletory measures, and in spite of all that could be done, she continued in a feverish state all the winter, with flying inflammatory pains in the chest, cough, poor appetite, and costive bowels; however, during the spring the cough disappeared, but the pains assumed a chronic form, and fixed in each hypochondriac region, but particularly the left, and occasioned great suffering. Catamenia has been irregular and deficient, urine

scanty, feet and legs now becoming œdematous, bowels more costive and tympanitic; has been under regular Medical treatment the whole time of her indisposition, but derived so little relief, that her Friends despaired of her recovery. On the first of June, used the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, and repeated it for a quarter of an hour every evening.

3d. Pains easier and bowels open.

5th. Appetite improving and voids more urine.

8th. Catamenia now regular.

10th. All the symptoms of her complaint much mitigated.

14th. General health improving, but still complains of pain, though it is much relieved by the use of the Bath.

18th. Continues to gain strength and is wonderfully relieved in every respect, except the chronic pains, which are not quite removed.



## PART 7

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**SURGEONS** are well aware of those symptomatic pains which frequently affect the Urinary Organs, and occasion irritations similar to Stone in the bladder, or Inflammation in the Urethra, whilst the complaint is seated in and depends upon a diseased action in the large intestines, of which the following are instances.

**THOMAS R.** *aged 42*

Has for several years been subject to flatulence and pain of the stomach, which twelve months ago settled in the Hypogastric region, and produced a distressing pain in the Testes, which every now and then became so severe as to incapacitate him from following his employment. General health rather impaired; Complains occasionally of flushing heats upon his skin, Bowels costive, Appetite poor during the severe attacks of pain, which generally lasted for several days, but were always relieved by ~~flat~~ flatus passing in the bowels. Has taken the advice of numerous Quacks, who abound

in this neighbourhood, without experiencing any relief.

Antispasmodics and Purgatives administered singly or combined, either afforded no relief, or aggravated his sufferings. On the 5th. of February 1819, he began the use of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath and continued it every evening for above a fortnight, when all his pains were gone. He is now in good health and able to follow his occupation without interruption.

**MR. J. H. *aged 61.***

Enjoyed good health till about seven years ago, when he began to pass large quantities of Calculous matter, which brought on a difficulty and frequency of voiding urine, attended with great pain and irritation in the Urethra. These symptoms continued for above twelve months, and were succeeded by the discharge of portions of Calculi resembling broken nut shells, to the amount of several ounces, which were passed occasionally, and kept up the irritation for three years, when they assumed the form and size of small horse beans, producing all the distressing symptoms of stone in the Bladder. His sufferings continued to increase until he had parted with twenty six at different times; since then, no calculi of any kind have made their appearance; but soon after he began to complain

of wind collecting at times like a ball in the Hypogastric region, which produced a similar pain and irritation in the Urinary organs, but was always relieved when ~~flatul~~ flatus passed along the intestinal canal: these symptoms continued to increase for two years; when the pain and irritation became as severe and distressing as when the Calculi were passing. The most eminent of the Profession were consulted in vain. By accident hearing him relate his suffering, I said he might have relief from a new remedy, which he willingly assented to. Therefore on the 17th. of July 1820, he began the use of the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath for half an hour every evening, and continued it for two months with surprising benefit. The pain and irritation in the Urinary passages are now much less, than they have been at any time during the last seven years and he can walk about with much more ease and agility.

When these diseased actions of the intestinal canal, which most frequently take place in the stomach or large intestines give rise to symptomatic pains, and proceed from torpor of the Liver, biliary derangement, or a weakened action in the parts themselves: the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath will in such debilitated habits be found a preferable remedy to any form of mercury: because the Bath gives a healthy action to the whole secretory sys-

tem, and does not in the smallest degree impair the constitution as mercury does, when it is either given too freely, or persevered in too long.

The Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, like mercury, is a stimulating remedy, and every discerning Practitioner must acknowledge the serious and irreparable mischiefs, that have accrued to society from the employment of this potent Drug, in syphilitic complaints accompanied with inflammation, either topical or general; therefore the grand secret in the successful exhibition of this medicine is to have the system free from inflammatory action. Upon the same ground the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath is contraindicated when the Lancet may be advantageously used: therefore, in cases of extreme irritability, high excitement, or when inflammatory action is subsisting in the system, the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath will be found either injurious or of no avail; hence we may account for its fruitless effects in cases of Chronic Inflammation of the Liver, and other Chylopoetic Viscera.

I do not mean to fight the battles of the Anti-mercurialists but only endeavour to establish a medical Fact, which will materially assist the treatment of some of the intricate and complicated diseases of the Chylopoetic Viscera.

The Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, although of less general utility than mercury, will effect a cure



in some cases, where this mineral is insufficient. Upon comparing the virtues of these two remedies, they will be found powerful auxiliaries to one another, because we see the action of mercury most remarkably determined to the fluids of the salivary glands, the bowels, and the skin, whilst the action of the Acid Bath is most powerfully exerted on the fluids of the stomach, liver and bowels. The powerful arm of mercury can effect a change on diseased structures, but the Acid Bath as far as I have seen can effect only a change on diseased actions.

The Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath has the power of increasing the secretions without exciting such a commotion and febrile action in the system as mercury<sup>n</sup>; therefore in certain debilitated states it must be a preferable remedy. When ever there is a Debile action in the secretory vessels unaccompanied by topical or general inflammation the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath is indicated and I have found it a powerful adjuvant to other remedies in directing their course to the secretory organs.

Medical Practitioners must have experienced the inutility of purgatives, however powerful, or however skilfully applied in cases of Illus depending upon an overdistended state of a portion of the intestine. In cases of this kind the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath will prove a valuable remedy for removing the inaction of the distended part, which if not subdued, must frequently be the cause of death.

## PART VI

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BESIDES cases of actual disease, the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath has been tryed in the following cases of apprehended miscarriage.

MRS. L. *aged 38.*

Had miscarried six times at various periods of gestation; but had never borne a living child. The Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath was advised as soon as Pregnancy was suspected, and it was continued occasionally through the whole period. The plan succeeded and the Lady is now the mother of a living child.

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MRS. W. *aged 32.*

Of spare habit. The Mother of five children, and has miscarried thrice. At present in the third month of Pregnancy, has regular pains and the same sensations, that preceded her former miscarriages. On the 4th. of August 1820, used the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath, for a quarter of an hour.



5. An hour after using the Bath felt herself revived and easier, and to-day the pains and other abortive symptoms much mitigated.

6th. Pains gone and feels stronger.

14th. Has used the Bath every evening, appetite improved and bowels more regular, which she attributes to the Bath. Was advised to use the Bath occasionally, or when any threatening symptoms made their appearance.

The subject of Abortion is one of the greatest practical importance and highly interesting, whether we consider the difficulty of treatment or the danger generally attached to it: therefore whatever tends to improve the one or lessen the other, must be acceptable to the Profession and the individuals concerned. From the above cases, it is probable the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath may prove a useful remedy, when habitual or threatened abortion depends upon a general weakness of the system, a debilitated action of the Uterus, or when it arises from sympathy with some diseased organ, as the stomach or other of the Chylopoetic Viscera.

It may be an object of enquiry with Medical Practitioners, why the Nitro Muriatic Acid Bath is directed in cases, that have no relation to each other? to this I reply, they have a relation to each other: they are all diseases of debility, and in all cases of diseases of the abdominal Viscera,

that have their origin in debility of the organ affected, I advise the Nitro Muriatric Acid Bath, and seldom am disappointed and for this view of the subject, with some of the preceeding cases, I am again happy to acknowledge my obligation to my Friend Dr. Jarrold.

In the exhibition of all active medicine caution is necessary, but particularly so in the application of the subtile stimulus of the Nitro Muriatric Acid Bath, which has in some cases occasioned the spitting or vomiting of blood. In others it has occasioned those who have improperly used it, to fall down as if intoxicated, or seized with a fit of apoplexy, it is therefore desirable, that the nature of the disease and the constitution of the Patient be well considered before the application of the Bath is had recourse to.

THE END.